



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MARCH 17, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS NEVADA MAN FOR COCAINE POSSESSION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Nevada man was convicted by a federal jury today for possessing with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine.

Ramiro R. Urbina, 44, of North Las Vegas, Nevada, was found guilty at the conclusion of a trial that began March 15, 2004. Jurors deliberated about half an hour before returning a guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon. The jury also found that **Urbina** should forfeit to the government a 2000 Ford F-250 truck along with an exterior gas tank and tool box that were in the bed of the truck, and a Imperial Brand horse trailer, which were included in two criminal forfeiture counts of the federal indictment.

The original criminal complaint against **Urbina** resulted from a highway interdiction by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. **Urbina** was driving a Ford F-250 pickup truck that was pulling a horse trailer, Graves said, when he was stopped on Interstate 44 in Lawrence County at approximately 10 a.m. on April 1, 2003, by a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper due to a lane violation.

In a search of the vehicle, the trooper discovered six bundles of cocaine, weighing about six kilograms, in a hidden compartment of an external fuel tank.

Urbina agreed to cooperate with law enforcement officials in a controlled delivery of the drug to the buyer in Dayton, Ohio. But en route to Dayton, **Urbina** attempted to flee law enforcement agents by stealing a car and leading officers on a high-speed pursuit on Interstate 70 in Indianapolis, Indiana, until he stopped and was arrested.

Under federal statutes, **Urbina** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. His

sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Indiana State Police and the Hancock County, Indiana, Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow